

VZCZCXRO0491
RR RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHHM
DE RUEHJA #0407 0600224
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 290224Z FEB 08
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8135
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1579
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 8348
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 0509
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 3191
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0590
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1613
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2069
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 2368
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0139
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS JAKARTA 000407

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/RSP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, EAP/EP
DEPT FOR EB/IFD/OMA
DEPT ALSO FOR OES/IET AND OES/ETC/TED
USAID FOR LCHILES
BANGKOK FOR USAID/CARDUNER/KISSINGER/PARISH
CAMBODIA FOR USAID
MANILA FOR USAID
HANOI FOR USAID
TREASURY FOR IA-SETH SEARLS
COMMERCE FOR 4430/KELLY
SINGAPORE FOR BAKER

E.O. 12598: N/A

TAGS: [ECON](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [ID](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN SUPPORT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

¶1. (SBU) ASEAN has been waiting with anticipation for a renewed commitment from the U.S., Secretary General (SG) Surin Pitsuwan stated in a February 25 courtesy call by DAS Marciel and representatives of the USAID Asia Regional Mission. The team met with the SG to present and formally launch ADVANCE (ASEAN Development Vision to Advance National Cooperation and Economic Integration), a State/USAID funded, multi-sector development program to support ASEAN economic integration through 2015, the date set for achieving an ASEAN Community. The courtesy call covered areas for future potential collaboration between the U.S. and ASEAN. A joint press conference with local and regional media followed the meeting.

ASEAN WELCOMES "RENEWED" U.S. COMMITMENT

¶2. (SBU) Dr. Surin welcomed the USG's increased engagement with ASEAN through ADVANCE. He shared that the ASEAN member states' leaders and foreign ministers are upbeat about the direction the organization is taking, and that dialogue partner support is now more important than ever. The member countries' leaders have instructed him to assume that the ASEAN Charter is already ratified and to proceed at "full speed" on economic integration.

¶3. (SBU) The meeting participants brainstormed on ways that USG support could best align with ASEAN's strategic goals, including: 1) weaving USG bilateral and regional initiatives together to maximize effectiveness; 2) maintaining open communication on what initiatives work and where gaps remain; and 3) encouraging the involvement of the private sector in relevant areas such as economic policy and

performance scorecarding.

"ADVANCE" LAUNCHED IN PRESS CONFERENCE

¶4. (U) Following the courtesy call, DAS Marciel, Dr. Surin, and USAID Asia's Mission Director, Olivier Carduner, participated in a press conference to formally announce the launch of ADVANCE and highlight the ongoing U.S. commitment to ASEAN. Questions covered ADVANCE, the ASEAN Charter ratification process, and the U.S. position on Burma. News outlets in Indonesia, ASEAN member countries and China carried the story.

¶5. (U) DAS Marciel has cleared this telegram.

HUME